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**WASHBURN HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MINNESOTA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 13, 2014) — In its 29<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Chase Coley of Washburn High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Basketball Player of the Year. Coley is the first Gatorade Minnesota Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Washburn High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the court, distinguishes Coley as Minnesota's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award announced in March, Coley joins an elite alumni association of past state girls basketball award-winners, including Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo HS, Calif.), Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill HS, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville HS, N.C.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis HS, Ind.) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside HS, Calif.)

The 6-foot-4 senior center led the Millers to a 23-6 record and a berth in the Class AAA sectional finals, scheduled for March 13. A 2014 Minnesota Miss Basketball nominee, Coley averaged 24.4 points, 18.4 rebounds, 9.4 blocks, 6.2 assists and 5.7 steals through 29 games. A roster invitee at April's inaugural SchollyMe All World Game in California, Coley owns Minnesota prep records for blocks in a game, season and career. She also ranks among the top three in state history for single-season and career rebounds.

Coley has maintained a 3.19 GPA in the classroom. Also a volleyball, lacrosse and track standout, she has volunteered as a youth basketball instructor.

"You don't see many athletes with her height and skill set come along often," said Matt Lang, head coach of rival Patrick Henry High. "Chase's mid-range game is excellent, but she is also very capable from further out. I think what separates her from many others is her phenomenal court vision. Her ball-handling and passing skills are impressive."

Coley has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Iowa this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Coley joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Girls Basketball Players of the Year Rebekah Dahlman (2012-13 & 2011-12, Braham Area High School), Rachel Banham (2010-11, Lakeville North High School), Sari Noga (2009-10, Parkers Prairie), Tayler Hill (2008-09 & 2007-08, Minneapolis South), and Janessa Wolff (2006-07, Park Rapids Area) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit [www.gatorade.com/poy](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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